

## Geographic Review Panel 3 – American River/Eastside Tribes

**Proposal number:** 2001-F209

**Short Proposal Title:** Evaluation of Biological Assimilatory of Selenium

**1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region.** Meets CALFED and CVPIA priorities to help control contaminants and is a proposal requested in the PSP (see page 45). Focus is on splittail. Selenium is not an important issue in our region and therefore this proposal has low relevance to the region.

**2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region.** Selenium is a water contaminant problem on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley with waters flowing to the Delta/San Francisco Bay. There have been a lot of selenium studies and this study would have obvious links to those previous and ongoing studies.

**3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner.** Project can move ahead because it is a laboratory effort.

**4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project.** Research team appears well qualified to carry out the various tasks.

**5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).** Not applicable (research and monitoring effort)

**6. Cost.** State cost \$651,288; Federal cost \$871,559. This seems like a high cost project for species work.

**7. Cost sharing.** None

**8. Additional comments.** Understanding the bio-transfer and bioaccumulation of selenium is essential to evaluating the fate and impacts of existing and proposed selenium discharges in to the Bay/Delta.

This is an effort to identify various species of Se as it passes up the food chain. The ecotoxicity of Se is a major concern. The model to be followed is that of the bluegill as the surrogate for splittail. One reviewer indicated that the reference to Biological Assimilatory Capacity (BAS) was more appropriate to be used at the ecosystem level, not at the individual level.

The USGS is presently working on the effects of Selenium discharge into the waters of the Bay/Delta and the bioaccumulation and bioeffects at upper and lower limits of discharge. The Panel is concerned that it may be premature to fund the proposed study at this time.

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### Regional Ranking

**Panel Ranking:** Medium low

**Provide a brief explanation of your ranking:** This proposed study has low relevance to the region and therefore the Panel rated the proposal medium low.